

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is reminiscent of the current media empire in Italy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, not surprisingly, people's best interests get left out. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Our very principals are founded on an objective and fact finding public media. The FCC's role in keeping this vital American principal is critical. Please don't allow Sinclair to flagrantly disregard the value of broadcast media.

Thank you.